REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed November 28, 2005. Claims 1-11, 20-32, 34-37, 39-46, 48-51 and 53-60 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11, 20-32, 34-37, 39-46, 48-51 and 53-60. The present Response amends claims 1, 10, 29, 30, 43, 44, 57, and 58, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 1-11, 20-32, 34-37, 39-46, 48-51 and 53-60. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-11, 20-32, 34-37, 39-46 and 48-51 and 53-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically the disclosure does not provide a description of "storing information of the state in non-persistent memory". To the contrary, Examiner finds that Figure 1 of the present application shows state information is stored in a "Persistent Storage 111".

As widely understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, a memory on a computing device is by default non-persistent, unless such memory is specifically noted as persistent or permanent. In fact, almost every computing device on the market uses the phrase "memory" to refer to non-persistent storage in its user manual and specification as distinguishable from "hard drive" (persistent/permanent storage). In addition, the application specifically discussed the balance between performance (of storing in memory) and reliability (of storing in persistent storage) in paragraph [0016]. Furthermore, claims 1, 10, 29, 30, 43, 44, 57, and 58 point out that the memory is on a computing device, while the persistent storage 111 does not belong to

any computing device as shown in Figure 1. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection with respect to these claims be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

1.   Claims 1-6, 9-11, 20-32, 34, 37, 39-46, 48, 51 and 53-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iyer (2001/0037367), in view of Yamamoto (2003/0037110) and Yasue (2003/0009525).

Iyer, Yamamoto and Yasue all teach about information sharing (Iyer), chat (Yamamoto) or message (Yasue) between/among people - owners, users, or customers. In contrast, the present invention teaches conversations between processes running on computer devices, which as understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, is fundamentally different from conversations between or initiated by human beings. In addition, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner in that Iyer discloses conversation between an owner and a visitor. Figure 1 in Iyer shows that the owner and the visitor communicate only indirectly via the shared virtual area, and both paragraph [0010] and [0030] cited by the Examiner clearly state that a connection is established only between the visitor and the shared area. While owner of the shared area may control the shared area to grant or deny a request by the visitor, there is no direct communication between the owner and the visitor.

Therefore, Iyer in view of Yamamoto and Yasue cannot render independent claims 1, 10, 29, 30, 43, 44, 57 and 58 obvious. Since claims 5-6 and 9 depend on claim 1, claims 11, 20-28 depend on claim 10, claims 31, 32, 34, 37, 39-42 depend on claim 29, claims 45, 46, 48 and 51-56 depend on claim 43, claims 1-6, 9-11, 20-32, 34, 37, 39-46, 48 and 51-58 cannot be rendered obvious by Iyer in view of Yamamoto and Yasue under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least this

reason, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection with respect to these claims be withdrawn.

2.   Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 35, 36, 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iyer, Yamamoto, Yasue, further in view of Eide et al. (2004/0078455).

Eide does not teach providing a state upon request from a message during a conversation between two parties and storing the information of the state in memory as claimed in the independent claims 1, 10, 29, and 43 in the present invention. Iyer, Yamamoto and Yasue cannot anticipate the present invention either as discussed earlier. Since claims 7 and 8 depend on claim 1, claims 17 and 18 depend on claim 10, claims 35 and 36 depend on claim 29, and claims 49 and 50 depend on claim 43, Iyer in view of Yamamoto, Yasue, further in view of Eide cannot render the present invention in claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 35, 36, 49 and 50 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least this reason, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection with respect to these claims be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment

to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any

fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: ___3/15/06___   By: _____
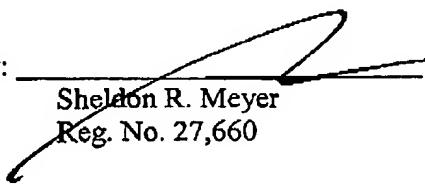
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